



COMMUNITY BRIEFING

Westminster Police Department

Andrew E. Hall, Chief of Police

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January - March 2004

Volume 2 Issue 1

Dedicated to Lieutenant Ronald Weber, Sr., and Motor Officer Steven Phillips



As we move forward in the Year 2004, the Department would like to recognize the lives and service of Lt. Ronald Weber, Sr. and Motor Officer Steven Phillips. Throughout the years, they served as leaders, mentors, and teachers. Those who worked and trained with Ron and Steve will always treasure the experience. We are grateful for their contribution to our lives, both professionally and personally. Their legacy will stay with the Department and the City for years to come.

THANK YOU!

The police department has received numerous calls, cards, flowers, and messages of support from the community. Thank you for your gracious and generous support. It has meant a lot to everyone. We have sent out thank you messages to many of you, but just in case we have missed someone, please know that your actions and support are appreciated. Thank you!



Chief Andy Hall

Words from Chief Hall

Welcome to the second edition of The Community Briefing. This newsletter is part of our ongoing effort to keep you abreast of public safety trends and police department happenings. You will find this edition contains shorter articles and more images than the

first. This has been done in response to your feedback. Please let us know if you enjoy this revised format and find it interesting. We look forward to hearing from you.

Department supervisors and managers continue to work diligently to increase our performance and decrease cost in as many places as possible. We know that quality public safety services are a significant part of the city's budget. We want you to receive a solid return on your hard earned tax dollars and are committed to doing everything we can to be the very best police department possible.

Your input is vital to this process and we welcome your involvement. We greatly appreciate your

trust and support and will strive to always earn it through our performance.



Great Investigations

**Officer Edward Esqueda
Crime Analyst Julie Romano**

Armed with a possible suspect description for a window smash crime, Crime Analyst Julie Romano went to briefing and shared her findings with patrol officers. Soon after, Officer Esqueda reviewed a police surveillance video and recognized the suspect as a local transient. Based on prior contacts, Officer Esqueda was able to quickly locate the suspect and a friend in their transient

camp. Efforts by both Officer Esqueda and Julie Romano led to the arrest of the suspects who were responsible for over 25 window smashes in Westminster and Garden Grove. Great work by both!

NEW UPDATE! Police-Mental Health Team

In order to improve police response and enhance services to all mentally ill persons in our City, the Department has formed a partnership with the Orange County Health Care Agency. Select patrol officers are paired with **Lance Lindgren**, an experienced mental health specialist. Together, they respond to calls for service involving mentally ill persons. With the efforts of **Sergeant Mike Chapman**, all officers are trained on how to properly respond to mentally ill persons.



Sergeant Chapman & Lance Lindgren

The collective skills and knowledge of law enforcement officers and a mental health specialist have led to more successful referrals and follow-up contacts for those in need of such services.

Forensic Services (Our very own CSI Team!)

The Forensic Services Bureau manages crime scene investigations and provides all photographic and fingerprint services for the department. Technicians document crime scenes and collect evidence such as blood and fingerprints. Videotape and digital cameras are used to take photographs of locations, suspects, victims, and evidence.

Did you know? Each year the bureau takes about **45,000** photographs and **10,000** sets of fingerprints.



Fingerprints found at crime scenes are compared against local and State files in order to identify suspects. The unit is staffed with a full time Certified Latent Print Examiner and a Certified Crime Scene Analyst who are supported by six part-time employees.



Community Feedback *Thank you for your input!*

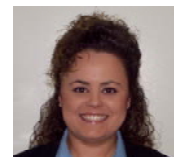
Since October 2003, our Research & Planning unit has been sending surveys to randomly selected addresses in the City. The goal is to actively solicit feedback from the community. As of today, over 5,600 surveys have been sent.



Preliminary results indicate that over **79%** of our respondents are satisfied with the WPD, and **83%** believe that the Department provides quality services to the public. Of those who have had direct contact with the WPD, most agreed that our personnel are professional, respond in a timely manner, are helpful and are knowledgeable. In fact, over 81% of the respondents were satisfied with the encounter. Many also took additional time to identify crime/policing concerns and issues in their neighborhoods. Such information will be useful in helping the Department improve its services.

We are proud of the overwhelming amount of satisfaction the respondents have with their police department!

Crime Analysis Unit



Crime Analyst Julie Romano

The mission of the Crime Analysis Unit (CAU) is to provide timely, accurate, informational support to line operations and investigators; to maintain an accurate crime and suspect database which facilitates quality analysis; and to produce and disseminate timely publications on crime series, patterns, trends, and offenders which will lead to the identification, arrest and successful prosecution of criminals.

2003 CRIME DATA

↑ Part I Crime increased 8% in 2003. This is not a surprising increase. We have enjoyed 10 years of falling crime rate and still remain 34% below the level we experienced in 1994.

↑ Part II Crime increased 15% in 2003. Though a significant jump, it is still 11% below the level in 1994.

↑ Total calls for service increased 1.3% last year, but we are still down 4.5% over the past four years.

Community Event

The Children's Hospital of Orange County (CHOC) Healthy Tomorrow's Mobile Health Clinic will be in town during the next several months. The CHOC mobile clinic will provide physical exams, immunizations, vision and hearing screenings in an effort to promote wellness and enhance education to school-aged children. It will be

staffed with a bilingual pediatric nurse practitioner, a nurse, and patient services representative.



The mobile clinic will be at the Westminster Boys & Girls Club at 14400 Chestnut Street on the following dates:

March 12, 2004
April 9, 2004
May 14, 2004
June 11, 2004

To schedule a visit, please call CHOC at (714) 532-7575.

Special Awards and Recognition

**Officer William Eifert
Detective Nick Tran**



Congratulations! Both officers will receive the Department's Distinguished Service "Medal of Merit," which is awarded to those who demonstrate outstanding individual performance. Officers Eifert and Tran performed successful life saving efforts when an elderly male suffered a heart attack during a community function.



Officer Eifert

Detective Tran

The award ceremony will take place at the beginning of the Westminster City Council Meeting on Wednesday, March 17, 2004, at 7:00 p.m.

"Community Award" March 6, 2004

Officer Edward Esqueda received awards from Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion.



From Left to Right: Mr. Ed Conklin, Officer Esqueda, Mr. Vincent Agor

He was recognized for his superb efforts in protecting the community through the arrests of suspected crime offenders. Officer Esqueda led the department in his arrest record, averaging over 10 arrests per month. Congratulations!

"Very Special Persons" Award



Johnson Middle School Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) honored **Officers Phuong Pham and David Ferronato** at their annual awards meeting on February 24, 2004. Both officers were honored for their commitment to the Front Line Academy. Congratulations to both officers for a job well done!



Officer Pham & Officer Ferronato

"Westminster Chamber of Commerce Public Safety Awards"

**Detective Alan Iwashita
Detective Dan Schoonmaker
Intern Kellee Wells**

These individuals were recognized on February 17, 2004, for their work in developing and implementing the WPD Community Outreach Program.



Det. Schoonmaker, Intern Wells, and Det. Iwashita received their award.

This program's goal is to further enhance the communication between the WPD and the community. The group has published safety tips, produced information pamphlets, and organized interviews with various media outlets. Congratulations to all!

SWAT TEAM 2003 ANNUAL DEDICATION AWARD

Officer Cord Vandergrift received the annual SWAT Team Dedication Award in December 2003.



Officer Vandergrift

Fellow SWAT teammates identified Officer Vandergrift as someone who has gone "above and beyond" to assist with team functions throughout the year. Congratulations Officer Vandergrift!

Recent Accomplishments

Sergeant Al Panella will become the third sergeant of the Department to graduate from the Sherman Block Supervisory Leadership Institute in April 2004.



Sergeant Panella

This nine-month course is organized through the California State University, Long Beach, and the CA Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training. Students of the course learn advanced leadership skills, which can then be applied to their daily jobs.

Other Leadership Academy Graduates include Lieutenant Ron Coopman and Sergeant Jack Davidson.



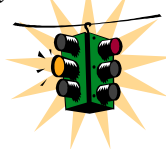
Ask Your Questions

admin@ewpd.org

(714) 898-3315
extension 408

Sgt. Jack Davidson

Question: "What can motorcyclists do when they want to make a left turn, with little or no traffic, and the left turn arrow will not activate by the motorcycle?"



Answer: We recommend that you **do not** drive through the red traffic light, even when there is little or no traffic. It is safer to drive past the street you would like to turn left onto, and make a u-turn at the next street.

So, when the traffic is clear, safely merge out of the left turn lane and proceed past the intersection. Drive to a point where you may safely make a u-turn. Then, make a right turn onto the intended street in order to reach your destination.

DRIVE SAFELY AND REMEMBER TO BUCKLE-UP!

CRIME PREVENTION TIP FROM WPD

The Department aims to provide updated crime prevention tips or information to the community. Here is something we have learned

from the banking industry at a recent fraud meeting.

Although this "ATM Scam" has not been seen in the U.S., it is still a reminder of how criminals are using creative, yet unsuspecting, ways to obtain personal information from the public.

So, please be careful and report any suspicious looking ATMs to your bank and the police.

Remember... always safeguard your personal information to prevent from becoming a victim!

Normal ATM Machine



The first device is actually a "slot" which attaches over the ATM slot and captures the card information and PIN information.

Note the additional slot



The second device is a "brochure holder" which contains a small hidden camera inside that records the same information.

A monitor and pamphlet holder on the side



It's a camera!

New Faces at WPD

Officer Rodney Covault has successfully completed his field training at the end of January 2004. He is currently assigned to the Patrol Unit. Say "hello" when you see him patrolling your neighborhood!



Officer Covault

Officers-in-Training

Three new officers have joined the Westminster Police Department in January 2004. They are currently in training with other experienced officers.



From Left to Right: Officer Perez, Officer Papale, Officer Nguyen, and Chief Hall.

Officer Brian Perez

Officer Perez grew up in San Bernardino County, and graduated from California State University, San Bernardino, with a degree in Social Science. He served and attained the rank of captain at the Marine Corp, where he remained a reservist. As Class President, Officer Perez graduated 5th in his class at the Golden West Police Academy.

Officer Rafaelo Papale

Officer Papale is a native of Florida. He spent the past seven years in the Marine Corp and attained the rank of sergeant. Officer Papale graduated 4th in his class at the Golden West Police Academy, where he received the top award for his firearms skills.

Officer Michael Nguyen

Officer Nguyen grew up in Orange County and graduated from the University of California, Irvine, with a degree in Political Science. He began his law enforcement career as an intern at WPD, and then he enrolled in the Golden West Police Academy. Officer Nguyen graduated 3rd in his class, and he received the top award for police report writing.

Police Department Phone Numbers

**If you have an emergency,
call 9-1-1!**



**For non-emergency
or other business,
call (714) 898-3315**

General Information	ext. 425
Dispatch	ext. 326
Records Bureau	ext. 371
Traffic Division	ext. 339
Administration	ext. 301

E-mail List

If you are not on our Community Briefing e-mail list and would like to be, please let us know by sending your name and e-mail address to admin@ewpd.org.



We want to express our sincere appreciation to the Westminster City Council for their support and commitment to public safety!

**Mayor Margie L. Rice
Mayor Pro-Tem Andy Quach
Councilman Kermit Marsh
Councilman Frank Fry
Councilman Russell Paris**

Community Briefing is a newsletter produced quarterly by the Westminster Police Department. Its main purpose is to share information about the Department with the community we serve.

Further questions or comments regarding the contents of this newsletter should be forwarded to the Research & Planning Unit at (714) 898-3315 ext. 460 or admin@ewpd.org.